

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6649

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 242656

1. FOLLOWING ARE OUR REACTIONS TO YOUR COMMENTS ON
PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT (NEW DELHI 13863).

2. WE APPRECIATE NEED TO PROVIDE PRESIDENT WITH PRIVATE
AND REST TIME AND CONSEQUENTLY AGREE ON DESIRABILITY OF
HOLDING TO MINIMUM PURELY PROTOCOL EVENTS IN
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT
REDUCING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIS SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS
WITH THE GOI AND FOR EXPOSURE TO THE PUBLIC TO SUCH A
LOW POINT THAT INDIANS WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT.

3. IN LIGHT OF ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEA
PROTOCOL, WE BELIEVE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES
CAN BE CONTAINED TO 20-25 MINUTES.

4. WHAT DOES A PRIVATE LUNCH ON NOVEMBER 28 FOR
PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER MEAN? WOULD ROOSEVELT HOUSE
BE THE SITE? DOES IT INCLUDE SECRETARY AND MRS. VANCE,
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BRZESINSKI, THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GOHEEN, OTHERS?

5. IF PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER WILL BE AT THE
RESIDENCE FOR LUNCH ON NOVEMBER 28, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT
TEN MINUTES BEFORE OR AFTER LUNCH BE ALLOCATED TO A
FEW WORDS OF GREETING TO ASSEMBLED AMERICAN AND INDIAN
STAFFS OF MISSION, CHILDREN FROM AMERICAN SCHOOL AFD

UNOFFICIAL AMERICANS. CO-LOCATION OF RESIDENCE AND EMBASSY IS ANOTHER ARGUMENT FOR INCLUDING THIS EVENT ON PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. AMERICAN COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE AT AIRPORT STRIKES US AS IMPRACTICAL AND IADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE.

6. IF AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 28 IS KEPT OPEN, ONLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFFICIAL TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOI OFFICIALS WOULD BE ONE HOUR OR LESS BEFORE ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT, WHICH GOI NOW SAYS MUST BE SCHEDULED FOR 1000 HOURS, PLUS ONE HOUR AFTER ADDRESS AND PRIOR TO LUNCH.

7. TOP GOI LEADERSHIP APPEARS VERY KEEN ON RAM LILA APPEARANCE BY PRESIDENT, WHICH WOULD AFFORD MAXIMUM EXPOSURE TO INDIAN PEOPLE. RAJ GHAT IS CONVENIENT TO RAM LILA AND WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY COULD PERHAPS BE SCHEDULED ENROUTE TO RAM LILA.

8. WE MUST RE-EMPHASIZE THAT INCLUSION OF RAJ GHAT CEREMONY SOMEWHERE ON SCHEDULE IS ESSENTIAL, AND IN OUR VIEW TACKLING IT ON TO ARRIVAL CEREMONY REMAINS DESIRABLE.

9. VISIT TO VILLAGE WOULD BE BOTH INFORMATIVE AND POPULAR. IF DESAI ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT IT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDE AN ADDED OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION. IT IS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER, IF VISIT TO VILLAGE AND RAM LILA APPEARANCE COULD BOTH BE ACCOMPLISHED MONDAY AFTERNOON. TRAVEL TIME TO VILLAGE WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST 40 MINUTES EACH WAY.

10. RECEPTION AT ASHOKA WAS INCLUDED AS ALTERNATIVE TO CIVIC RECEPTION. MEA PROTOCOL IS FLEXIBLE ON QUESTION OF DITCHING RECEPTION BUT WANTS TO CHECK WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DUE BACK IN OFFICE OCTOBER 13, BEFORE MAKING ANY ADJUSTMEFT IN SCHEDULE.
GOHEEN

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